

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 BIB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-12 /081 W

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O R 180630Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4931

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: BILATERAL APPROACH ON SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 179532

1. IN ABSENCE ANY APPROPRIATE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, AMBASSADOR CONVEYED BILATERAL APPROACH ON SOVIET TRIALS PER REFTEL TO HEAD OF FOURTH DEPARTMENT, AMBASSADOR GOTSEV, WITH REQUEST THAT HE MAKE OUR POSITION KNOWN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT. FULL PRESENTATION WAS MADE.

2. GOTSEV UNDERSTOOD (AND AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED) DEMARCHE WAS BEING MADE TO ALL CSCE CAPTALS EXCEPT MOSCOW. MAIN ELEMENT OF GOTSEV'S RESPONSE WAS CONTENTION THAT CASES SUCH AS THE ORLOV, GINZBURG AND SHCHARANSKIY TRIALS CONCERNED CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS--IN THIS INSTANCE OF THE USSR. HE ALSO CITED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE US. BULGARIA, HOWEVER, WAS NOT DISPOSED TO RAISE SUCH QUESTIONS WITH THE USSR, US OR OTHER STATES. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AMERICAN CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WAS "SELECTIVE," NOTING THAT A GREAT DEAL MORE ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON JEWISH DISSIDENTS IN THE USSR THAN ON HUMAN

RIGHTS OFFENSES IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CHINA.
(THE AMBASSADOR REFUTED THE ARGUMENT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS
CONCERNS WERE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ATTENTION BY OTHER CSCE
GOVERNMENTS, NOTED THAT AMERICAN CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
APPLIED TO ALL CSCE SIGNATORIES, AND TO NON-CSCE COUNTRIES
IN OTHER CONTINENTS, INCLUDING CRITICISMS OF SOME
COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE HAD CLOSE TIES.)

3. GOTSEV ALSO NOTED "PECULIARITY" THAT US EXPRESSED
CONCERN WITH GINZBURG AND SHCHARANSKIY CASES AND NOT WITH
THAT OF FILATOV. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THIS SUPPORTED
THE POINT THAT US WAS SPEAKING OUT PRECISELY IN THOSE
CASES WHERE THE OFFENSE WAS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR EXERCISE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS ENDORSED IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

4. GOTSEV STATED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO
THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT. HE DID
NOT INDICATE WHETHER THERE WOULD BE FURTHER REACTION TO
THE DEMARCHE.

GARTHOF

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